

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6350
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5287

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: SOCIALIST PARTY RESPONDS TO CDS WITH CALL FOR DIALOGUE

REF: LISBON 5249

SUMMARY: THE SOCIALIST PARTY SECRETARIAT CALLED FOR HIGH-
LEVEL DIALOGUE TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS WITH THE CDS COALITION
PARTNERS AND SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT EANES PRESIDE OVER A
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION TO OVERCOME CURRENT PROBLEMS.
THE SOCIALISTS TURNED ASIDE A CDS PROPOSAL FOR CABINET
REORGANIZATION, HOWEVER, AND PROSPECTS FOR EARLY RESOLUTION
OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES ARE NOT GOOD.
END SUMMARY.

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1. PS MEETS: THE SOCIALIST PARTY SECRETARIAT, AT A JULY
15-16 MEETING, EXAMINED CDS CALL FOR CHANGES IN THE CABINET.
THE SECRETARIAT, IN AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT:
-- REAFFIRMED ITS COMMITMENT TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE
PS-CDS GOVERNMENT;
-- EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF APPREHENSIONS EXPRESSED BY
CDS NATIONAL COUNCIL AND POINTED TO THE GRAVE PROBLEMS WHICH

WOULD BE CAUSED BY A GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS AND EARLY ELECTIONS;
-- PROPOSED IMMEDIATE, HIGH-LEVEL CONVERSATIONS TO SET GOVERNMENTAL PRIORITIES AND ELIMINATE DELAYS IN FULFILLMENT OF THE PS-CDS ACCORD;
-- ASSERTED THAT THE CHOICE OF MINISTERS IS THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESPONSIBILITY ALONE; THE PARTIES SHOULD DISCUSS POLICIES AND MEANS OF EXECUTION, NOT PERSONALITIES;
-- SUPPORTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S SUGGESTED CABINET SESSION PRESIDED BY THE PRESIDENT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON HOW TO OVERCOME CURRENT DIFFICULTIES;
-- CRITICIZED THE POSITIONS OF CERTAIN PARTY MEMBERS (READ ANTONIO BARRETO) WHICH CONTRADICT THE PARTY LINE.
-- SET A PS DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FOR JULY 23 AND ASKED THE DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE TO SET A DATE FOR A NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING.

2. CDS REACTS: CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL SAID THE PS SECRETARIAT STATEMENT CONTAINED ENOUGH POSITIVE ELEMENTS TO ENABLE CONVERSATIONS TO CONTINUE. EARLIER, CDS LEADERS HAD TAKEN POSITIONS DISTANCING THE CDS FROM GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

-- FREITAS DO AMARAL TOLD A PARTY GATHERING IN AVEIRO THAT THE CDS DID NOT ENTER THE GOVERNMENT TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT MORE LEFTIST POLICIES IN AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH THAN HAD ITS PREDECESSOR.
-- CDS VICE PRESIDENT AMARO DA COSTA TOLD ANOTHER CENTRIST
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GATHERING THAT THE PARTY COULD NO LONGER BACK GOVERNMENT POLICIES FULLY.

3. COMMENT: THE SOCIALISTS AND CENTER DEMOCRATS HAVE DELIBERATELY DOWNPLAYED PUBLIC DEBATE ON THEIR GOVERNMENTAL DIFFERENCES. PROSPECTS FOR EARLY RESOLUTION, HOWEVER, ARE NOT GOOD AS THE SOCIALISTS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEDE TO A PUBLIC CDS DEMAND FOR CABINET CHANGES. PS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY RUI MATEUS ESTIMATED PROSPECTS OF GOVERNMENT SURVIVAL TO EMBOFF AS ONLY 50 PERCENT. THE SOCIALISTS WHO WANT NO EARLY CHANGES HAVE STRETCHED OUT THEIR PARTY MEETINGS SO AS TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT PARTNERS ADDITIONAL TIME TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES.
BLOOMFIELD

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